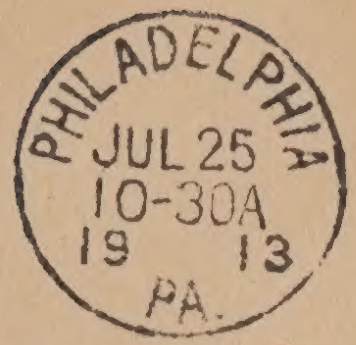
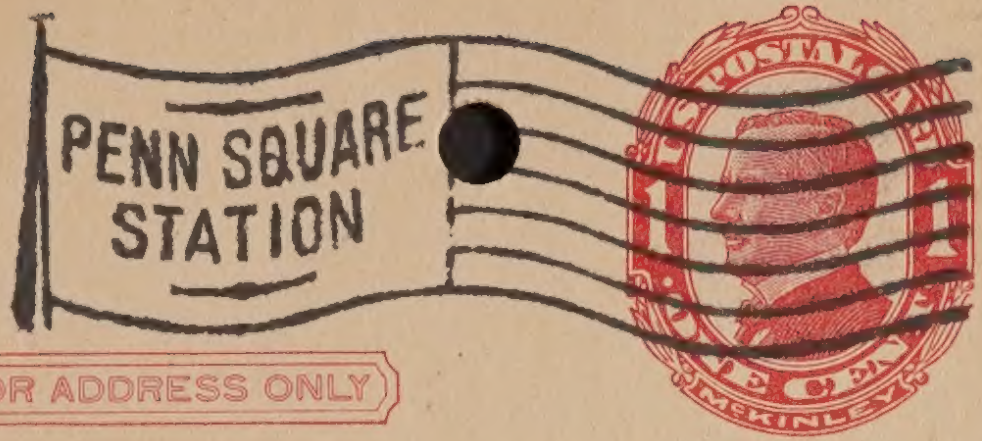




THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson D.D.

Delhi

New York.

Philadelphia July 24. 1913

Dear Doctor

In reply to yours of yesterday - I am certainly in favor of having the Ornamental wood work in front of the Organ pipes. It would look very bare without it.

Yours truly

W. W. Allen

P.S. Mr Ellwood Bansall died suddenly at Mt. Pocono. Funeral Saturday 10 A.M.

First Presbyterian Church
Seattle, Washington

March 23, 1914

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D. D.,
3504 Baring St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

My dear Brother:

Yours received and contents carefully noted.

I had a good meeting with Dr. Brown and so wrote Dr. Roberts. I sent a copy of my letter to the Board of Trustees to Dr. Roberts. You will remember that our committee ordered Dr. Roberts to copy all the communications from me and from others to me and to send a copy of each to each member of my committee, so you will see that I have complied with the requests of your letter by furnishing this material to our secretary whose duty it is to furnish a copy to each member of the committee.

I received a letter from the Board of Trustees granting our request, namely, to open up all the books to our legal committee. I immediately sent a copy of that letter to Dr. Roberts to be transmitted to you and to others; also sent a copy of it to Mr. Taggart and telegraphed him to call his legal committee and proceed at once. He has agreed to call his committee and to proceed, but, as he is going to the bottom of affairs it will be impossible for him to finish his work in time to report to the Assembly. In my opinion, this may be very wise. I don't think we have lost anything by proceeding cautiously and slowly because we are going to make a thorough investigation and to make a report that will settle the whole question one way or the other. I shall ask the Assembly for further time. During the interim I hope our sub-committees will exhaust the word "thorough" in their efforts to make a thorough investigation. Let us go to the bottom.

Your committee ought to be one of the most important because regardless of all other questions, the theological question will determine our action toward the Presbytery, toward the candidates from that seminary, toward

future candidates, toward our reorganization of New York Presbytery.

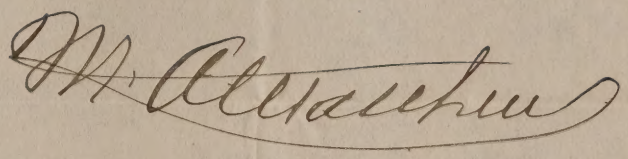
If Union Seminary is a Unitarian institution let ut say so and ask our ministers to withdraw from it - take them out of the faculty. Let us refuse to recognize their students and if any Presbytery does recognize them let us reorganize the Presbytery. The time has come for the church to be firm, true and aggressive in all doctrines and in all righteousness.

We will not submit to the General Assembly any compromise report so I don't think we have lost any time.

I am sending Dr. Roberts a copy of your letter and asking him to send you a copy of the letter from the Board of Trustees. I am

Yours,

MAM/JCP



202. N. Detroit St.
Xenia Ohio
April 16. 1917.

Rev. W. C. Robinson D. D.

Dear Dr Robinson.

I want to thank you and the other Princeton men for what you are doing to make my College life easier.

I am very grateful to you and I appreciate the fact that you are honoring my Father's memory in this way.

Of him is much required to whom much is given and

I feel that since it has been made possible for me to have an education, that my life is required to be used in service for others, therefore I have volunteered to go to India as a missionary.

I am enjoying a fine vacation at home now.

Yours sincerely

Agnes L. Ballantyne.

Xenia Ohio Mar. 28th 1917

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Yrs letter of Mar. 23rd with enclosed generous Chagres receipt. I deposited the money in the bank, and will give it to Agnes on her return home for Spring vacation next week. One pleasure she will find time for in vacation will be the writing a letter of acknowledgment, and expressing the appreciation she feels. I hope Yr and the other kind friends may never have occasion to think that Yrs great

Kindness has been misplaced.

Sincerely Yours

Blanche C. Ballantyne

Xenia O. Oct. 19th 1917

Rev. W.C. Robinson D.D.

Philadelphia, Pa

Dear Dr. Robinson

Your letter of the 16th inst. and enclosed cheque for $50 for Agnes' school expenses, duly rec'd. The money will be sent on to her in a few days, and she will be grateful, I am sure, as I am. I am realizing more and more God's goodness in raising up for us such friends as Mr. Ballantyne's classmates. and I praise Him for it and pray that He will not only bountifully reward the generous friends; but also help us to use these gifts to His glory and by them fit ourselves for doing our part in the advancement of the Kingdom. I thank

you for letting me know that Dr. Irvine is pleased with John. I intend to write to him soon. John seems to be highly pleased at Mercersburgh. He has there been initiated into a different sort of school life from any he has known before. He says he is not being "babied," as he expresses it; and I am pleased to note that he is not asking to be. So am-I am I to have him make the least possible use of his advantages and to come up to 88's expectations, that failure to do so would crush me. But I am expecting him to make good. I have a favor to ask of you, and it is this: That in case at any time there should be difficulty in raising needed funds, or if for any reason it should at any time be inconvenient to send it, you will so inform me. M. Ballantyne

wife and children need never want
to burden any one either on their own
account or on his.

With heart felt gratitude for all
your Kindness and Kind regards,

I remain
yours sincerely
Blanche C Ballantyne

My dear Mr. Robinson,

I guess you have "read any title clear", not to "Mansions in the sky" but to an Insane Asylum, but I am sure you have Bob would never have started on his matrimonial career with a lunatic and as it were be

down to the trials and anxieties
of the profession!

I am sorry to have taken
any of your valuable time but I
must tell you that your note
was a great help to me and en-
ables me to go on. I have fin-
ished my "grind" for the time being
and I am not ashamed! I have
been under very great strain
for fourteen years and I am often
near the breaking point.

You said such splendid
things about Bob, it was mighty
good of you to so encourage
me. I do not want him to
know that I wrote you, please
do not tell him; to know
how one's praise is appreciated.

I thank you more than I
can tell.

Very Sincerely,
Susan McN. Blackburn

Mrs. Luther Manly Blackburn

First Presbyterian Church
Reading, Penna.

Dear Count:

If you knew,
or if I could give you
to know how you turned
disaster into the splendid
victory and crowned our
celebration with surpassing
glory, you would surely
count the sacrifice and
[illegible]

Of course I can
see that the effect was
only all proportion to
the worth of the glorious

conversation, for uncommonly rare persons ordinarily completely lost [illegible]. How do you do it? Why, what an easy time I could have, if I only could get the knack!

But then, you're a dear, fat, loveable mass of goodness or good-heartedness, and I guess that, after all

[illegible]

itself. As you read it
you [illegible] it. In-
deed it was all quite
a mystery to me how
you could have won
every heart and the ad-
miration of every head
by that speech. But
you did, and that's what
I am trying to tell
you. One of the brightest
of the lot expressed it in this
way. That she had come
"for a stone and got
bread." You certainly
cast a spell over the

"services rendered" on the Treasury just ish, but just a poor effort at saying 'thank you'.

Finally,

Rob

March 8, 1918

My dear Dr.Robinson:-

Since I did not bid you good bye when you left for your vacation, I suppose you are fully convinced of my resentful and unkind attitude regarding the musical matters at Northminster.

I saw that you were very busy, and I did not feel very good myself at the time, so decided to write you in answer to your letter.

I am sorry I have given you the impression which you apparently have, for I did not know that I had expressed myself to anyone in any particular resentful attitude. On several occasions I volunteered my services, but was told that I was not needed. I offered to give any suggestions that might have helped the new organist, and volunteered to play for the singers that you were going to try. (They could at least have sung the solos that they brought to sing, and would not have been obliged to sing hymns).

I must confess to a feeling which is not resentful, yet not admiration for a few of the so called Christian men with whom I had dealings while at Northminster. If a man is not honorable he is nothing, and I have no desire to be cherished by such a man. At all times while serving Northminster I performed my duties conscientiously and seriously, and tried in my way to help others to live better lives, which I considered my duty as an organist. I encouraged criticism, but also wanted the opportunity to meet it frankly, which I was denied at all times; and when I went directly for it I

met with non committal and evasive answers. Mr.Alexander was the only one who was really honest, and while he was not always complimentary to me he was frank, and I have the highest esteem for him. I would feel very sorry if I were to lose his good wishes, as well as yours and many other good friends in the congregation whom I do cherish.

I am not resentful because I have lost the position. There are plenty of others and I have been offered several already. The thing that hurt me so much was the utter lack of fairness where it was most to be expected. If you cannot expect honor from the pillars of Christ's church where shall you look for it? This is what makes agnostics and unbelievers out of many of the choir singers and organists.
I know the music was not satisfactory---it suited me less than it did any one in the congregation. Before I was through with the first rehearsal that I had with the choir that had been selected, I realized that it never could be satisfactory. You were told that I was not given a fair trial, but selected because you wanted me.

I played five Sundays, spreading over a period of three months, and with three different choir combinations, and was then selected unanimously and without a dissenting voice, as I was told by several members of the music committee, while the choir selections which had been made without trials (except of course Miss Walters) have aroused almost universal protest from the very beginning. I knew things were far from satisfactory, and asked you repeatedly to let me know of the first adverse criticism you heard. I also asked several times of members of the Music Committee to give me an opportunity to meet with the Committee and talk over the

musical situation, but I was waived aside every time, and avoided every time I brought up the subject. You say we who led the music did not work in harmony. There were five of us, and two were given the benefit of the doubt. When I tried for the position I know of at least four others who were given charge of services and were considered as applicants, but I understand my successor had no competitors and was selected almost on sight.

If such "fairness" was practiced by a political Ring, there would be some excuse for it, but for representatives of Christ I dont understand it. I was told that I should have used more diplomacy. If diplomacy means the submerging of ones ideals and principals of honest living to temporary material gain, I hope never to be a diplomat.

Please dont think that I feel unkindly toward you. You have helped me to live a better christian life in many ways, and you have my highest esteem. I appreciate very much the kindness you have shown toward me, and if at any future time I can be of any service to you in any way I will consider it an honor to serve you. I have not applied for any other position, but if I should and will need a recommendation I will take advantage of your kind offer. I have many dear friends in Northminster and I hope to come sometime to hear you and the new choir and organ.

May God bless you in your work, and reward you a hundred fold for your sincere labors.

Very sincerely,

Wm. C. Teutz

9/5/1913

PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANAGE
FIFTY-EIGHTH ST. AND KINGSESSING AVE.
PHILADELPHIA

1019 S 47th St
Phila

Sept 16th 1911

My dear Mrs Bird

I was surprised to learn this morning before your letter arrived that Esther had not returned to the Orphanage. In the last letter from your Mother written on the blank side of mine to her, she plainly said "Esther will return in a few days," and begged us to be kind to her, which Kindness we have never lacked. Her two letters in response to mine were submitted to the Admission and Dismission Com and it was positively decided that Esther must return. I then consulted Mrs Cadmus that I might be sure we were adopting the right plan, and she wrote not only for herself but for the good people of Northminster Church that it was best for her to return, that Esther does not like Miss

Gardner is another surprise. as she is one of the best Matrons we have ever had and trains her girls beautifully as you have acknowledged, it is the old story of every girl. they resent any restraint placed upon them and at the time think unutterable things of their housemother. but when they leave the Orphanage and try the world for themselves how glad they are to go back to that same housemother, a young girl who has left the Orphanage has just written me, I quote her words. "Miss Gardner is such a dear. she has helped me in so many ways by her loving christian advice and other help"; If she is not good to Esther she is the first and only one who has ever made that complaint and I shall investigate thoroughly. My plan for Esther has always been to have her graduate from the Grammer School, and then take a course in the Commercial High School. Where

PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANAGE
FIFTY-EIGHTH ST. AND KINGSESSING AVE.
PHILADELPHIA

She would get a thorough business course and be assured of a good position. Then she would not only be earning her own living but in a position to help you. I am sure this is what Mrs Cadmus wishes and what the Northminster people would be willing to pay for. I am sure you must see the advantage in this over a district school.

As I told your Mother I am not acting entirely upon my own responsibility but upon the advice of the Committee who wish Esther to return, We shall expect her immediately upon receipt of this letter

Very sincerely Yours
J A Craven
President

I send this too - that -
you may see how
both sides look
at the matter
both right in a way -

John Bird says Esther will be a nervous wreck if the thing is not quieted down soon

Drinker - Pa - Sep - 23rd -
Rev. W. Courtland Robinson. D.D.
35th + Baring Streets -
Philadelphia - Pa -
My dear Pastor. -

I had decided to keep Esther home permanently after being here for the summer and seeing how things were working with her - and wrote Mrs. Graven to that effect but she refused. Now I write to you

to hand this letter in to the Sunday School & Mrs. Cadmus - Esther has been studying hard - and working hard - She studied four hours a day out of school - and washed the dishes - swept the kitchen floor - cleared up - carried two buckets of coal from the cellar - and brought in two pails of water from the well - every

morning regular - before she went to school - but now she can not study at all - She runs at the least little noise or any time any one comes to the door - for fear some one is after her (because Mrs. Craven told my mother they would have to use legal means to bring Esther back) - and I wrote my self - that they

would have to come
and get her - as long
as they would not -
give her to me -
what else could I do
because I have
signed the papers.
She has had to be
given medicine to
be put to sleep and
now she is unfit for
study at all - Do not -
say one single word
to blame Mrs. Cadmus.
I begged her to keep

Esther in the Orphanage
I thought it was for
her own good my self.
I knew no better then.
But now I warn
the Sunday School—
You will turn out—
a miserable moral
coward who can not
study — and can
work at nothing
gladly — I tell you
very plainly I
want the play for
my daughter in
the Orphanage stopped

now entirely and put on the next poor little street waif that comes in — There is little Alice to support — and you are paying enough for Esther to support two any way — Esther loves Northminster and so do I — Mrs. Cadmus is the best friend I ever had or ever will have perhaps — but there comes a time when we

must stop helping
and give all over
in the hands of
God Almighty
to rule things
The child is perfectly
willing to work hard
Study hard - Be obedi-
ent to her teacher
and my self and
her grand mother -
and live on very
little as far as
food and clothing
goes, all for the
sake of a love of
home and friends
about her

which she some how
does not feel is like
home in the Orphanage
and I can't help it. I
have tried my best
to teach her she was
better off - but now
Mr. Howe - Mr. Ireland
Mr. Allen - Mr. Celine
Mr. May - I appeal
to you - Can not a
child get as good
an education in an
attic or right at
home if they are
bent on it and

determined to study
Esther is bound to
study at home —
but she can not —
now on account of
her nerves — We all
know a child can
study a business
course at home if
they are bound to
themselves —
Northminster gave
me money to bury
my poor husband —
Gave me coal when
we were almost —

destitute - and took my poor little Esther off the street and helped to form her character for good and as she is a child of very strong will that was a great deal to do but now you have tided her over until she is past the age when Jesus left his earthly parents to teach - in the temple You have started

my poor child on the right-road but-
now is the time to
keep our hands off-
and I want you
to stop the pay for
Esther because I am
married now- and
if John Bird lives
4 or 5 years yet-
Esther will be old
enough then- to work
if he does not- the
grand army will
help my brother
through because

she is a war widow.
I am just as
grateful as I can
be. I beg of you -
not to set me
down as ungrateful
I am not. I know
what you have
done for Esther
and myself -
Tell me will you
stop the pay and
keep Esther home.
Yours grateful
always - but I am
so worried I can not -
work or do anything

PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANAGE
FIFTY-EIGHTH ST. AND KINGSESSING AVE.
PHILADELPHIA

1019 S 47th St
Phila
April 18th 1912

My dear Mrs Bird

Miss Harshberger has returned from her visit to your Mother, Esther, and yourself and we are shocked and grieved at the condition in which she found Esther and of what the neighbors all unite in saying, that she ought to be returned to the Orphanage and, especially of the false reports Esther has spread around about the Orphanage, Miss Harshberger was told that her Moral condition was in danger and that her Companions were not what they showed be. When I see the beautiful training the girls have in the Colton Cottage under Miss Gardner I am truly grieved for Esther. I personally had great ambition for her and hoped to give her a good business education

but your Mother in her selfishness threw that all away. And from what I hear can see no future for the girl. We hold you responsible for Esther as you placed her in the Orphanage, and we now throw that responsibility back upon you and request that you sign the Inclosed Release, and have it witnessed. then return to me. which will then close our relations with you. but not with any more false reports, which Esther or your Mother may circulate. that will immediately be placed in the hands of our attorney. and these reports will reach us as soon as circulated,

I cannot tell you Mrs Bird how sorry I am at this proceeding. it has been a grief to me and I hope you will be strong enough to control Esthers actions and make a good woman of her. Very Sincerely Yours

I A Craven

President

/

To Mrs. House and the Officers of the Bible School

I make a few statements to you about some trouble they had in the Orphanage before Esther left. I asked her about it, after the letter came to me from Mrs. Craven accusing my poor old mother and Esther of falsehood which I am convinced is a great mistake - nothing had been spread around, but was stirred up after Miss. Hershberger's visit. I inquired of Esther what the teacher meant by the fire-escape business - which my mother had made a big mistake in telling him about after Miss. H. came up here and she said "Well-Mother it is the rule in the Orphanage to have the windows all locked that lead out onto the fire-escape and some of the girls made a plan with the boys to leave the window open a little, in the room opposite to Esthers, mine across the hall, I take it - or more correctly speaking - the plan was made by boys and girls together. I know not how it was started, to leave

the windows open, on the fire escape side for the boys to come in after retiring time which they did, and this went on for some time - until the House Mothers found it out. The boys remained until quite a late hour as near as I can find out - I asked her how many boys came in - She thought 4 or 5 - or 5 or 6 I have forgotten the number - I asked Esther if they came in her room She said, yes - but they only stayed a little while and went right out and Grace (her room mate who is a member of the Church) and herself went to sleep - Now believe me, I could detect no guilt - not the least - in Esther's face - She told me just the circumstances as calm as if she were talking on a Sunday School lesson or any other subject - but you can read between the lines. You get it from me - as near as I can write just as the Child told me - I know Esther is pure in heart. I have good proof to be convinced. I then asked Esther why the house mother had not made her rounds to see if all was

all-right. Oh! Esther said, she got lazy and went to sleep. We will excuse her. Soldiers go to sleep on the march sometimes. I think it unnecessary to speak of other small affairs, meeting clandestinely - as no harm came from it that I can learn. Possibly in their zeal to make the children good they have been too strict. A little well regulated liberty generally makes every thing right I suppose - which they likely have given the children long before this. I have spoken ill of no one except the teacher. Nothing can harm an institution founded on the laws of Christ - Now with malice toward none and charity for all I beg you to be considerate with my mother too - who has been very ill

last winter. She said she had to put her cot bed by the kitchen stove and keep the fire going all night, to keep from freezing - It was so cold - It could not have been quite that bad but it froze in the kitchen. She is a good christian woman and has great zeal for Esthers getting an education and she would rather see Esther in the grave than get a bad character. So would I. Now please accept my heart felt gratitude for all you have done for myself and poor little Esther. We still belong to Northminster remember We are also very grateful to the Managers of the Presby Orphanage I am - anyway and so will Mother be soon - Esther will likely see things differently before many years

Truly Viola E. Bird

My dear Pastor – after reading the statement to Mr. House – to my husband John Bird – He said "I never would have told them any thing about it –" Well I said I think it is true – He answered me – The more true it is – the more harm it might do – to put any thing like that in writing – So I say now to you, Use your own judgement about it. Burn all the letters after reading them your self, (except the contract) if you think best and give them to no one, or else tell the Officers if you think it will do any good – Maybe I am wrong in telling them – I should

they not be told any com-
plaint when they pay so
much money? I do not
know but you do. Do just
as you think best about it.
and please tell Mrs. Craven
I requested you to mail the
Release Contract to her I
wanted you to see it.

Viola E. Bird